

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 137186
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

UNCLAS STATE 137186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, HA

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO U.S. INVESTORS: HAITI

1. MR. THOMAS O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT OF RAWLINGS SPORTING GOODS COMPANY, AND MR. JOHN MARSH, ATTORNEY, CALLED ON DEPARTMENT (ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON) MAY 24 TO REPORT DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY AMERICAN SPORTING GOODS MANUFACTURERS IN HAITI.

2. O'BRIEN, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF SPORTING GOODS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, REPORTED THAT THE ASSOCIATION'S TEN MEMBER FIRMS IN HAITI ALL HAVE EXPERIENCED NEW RESTRICTIONS IN RECENT MONTHS IMPOSED BY THE HAITIAN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. RESTRICTIONS INCLUDE NEW REQUIREMENTS OR PRESSURES TO PROCURE MORE RAW MATERIALS LOCALLY, DENIAL OF IMPORT LICENSES FOR CERTAIN BASEBALL COMPONENTS, AND END OF DUTY FREE PRIVILEGES FOR OTHER MATERIALS. O'BRIEN SAID THAT IF TREND CONTINUES, MANUFACTURERS WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER RELOCATING TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE REPORTED THAT THE SPORTING GOODS MANUFACTURERS ARE PLANNING TO SEND A COLLECTIVE LETTER TO THE HAITIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE

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AND INDUSTRY SETTING FORTH THEIR PROBLEMS, AND ASKED IF THE USG COULD BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RECOMMENDED THAT INVESTORS CALL ON AMBASSADOR JONES AND/OR ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER RICHMOND REGARDING POSSIBLE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. O'BRIEN SAID THEY WOULD DO SO. HE PROMISED TO NOTIFY THE DEPART-

MENT BEFORE A DELEGATION OF THE MANUFACTURERS LEAVES
FOR HAITI SOMETIME IN JUNE. VANCE

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